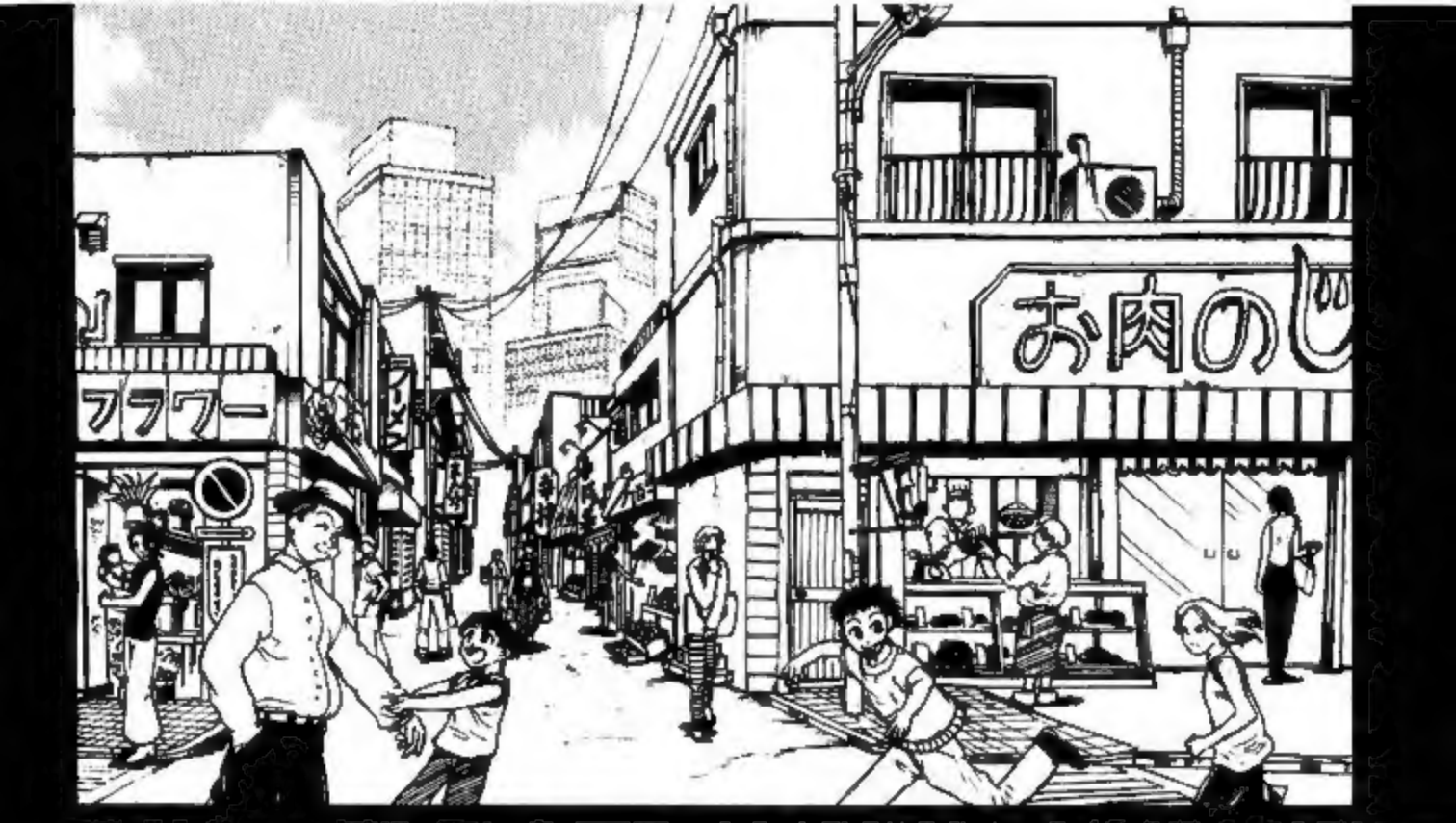
Intermission II~
Dialogue: Masaru's Story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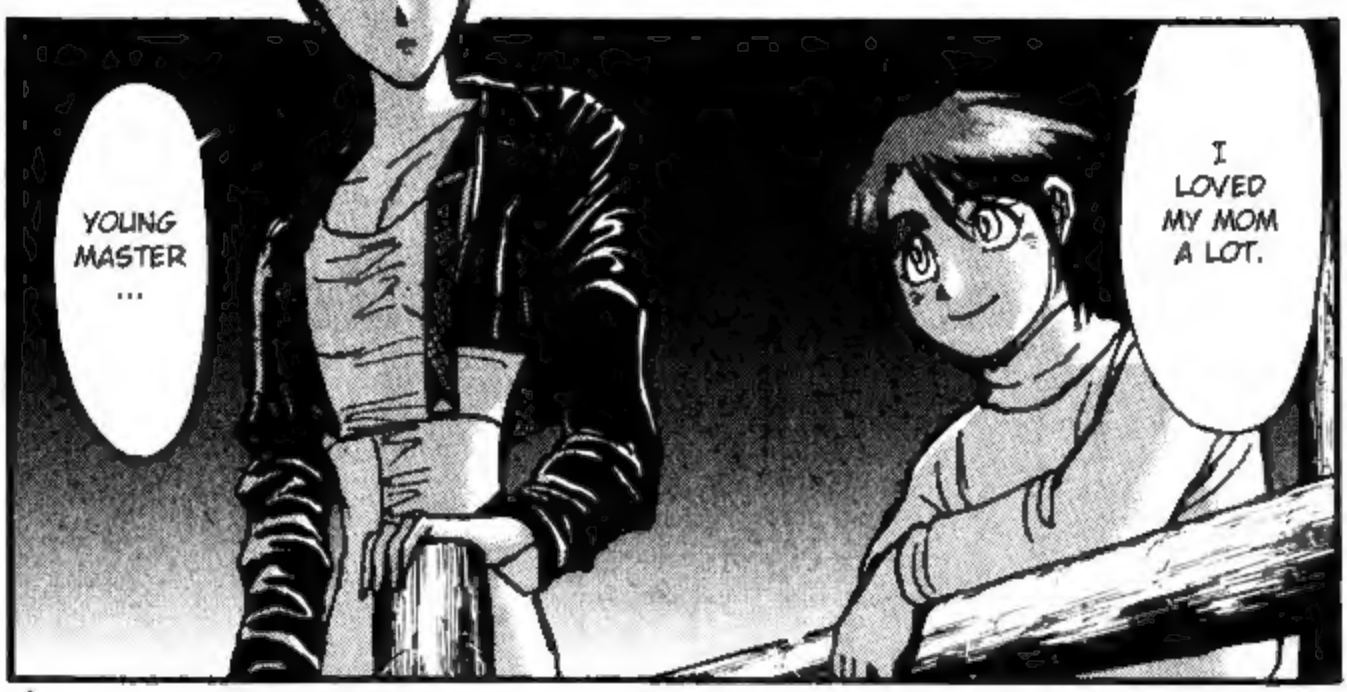
I GOT ANOTHER HUNDRED ON A TEST!
MOOOM!
カン カン カン

WHEN I WAS IN MY SECOND YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...

HHPPP
WE LIVED IN A TINY APARTMENT ...
AND MOM WAS OUT LATE MOST NIGHTS, WORKING. BUT I DIDN'T CARE. I WAS HAPPY.

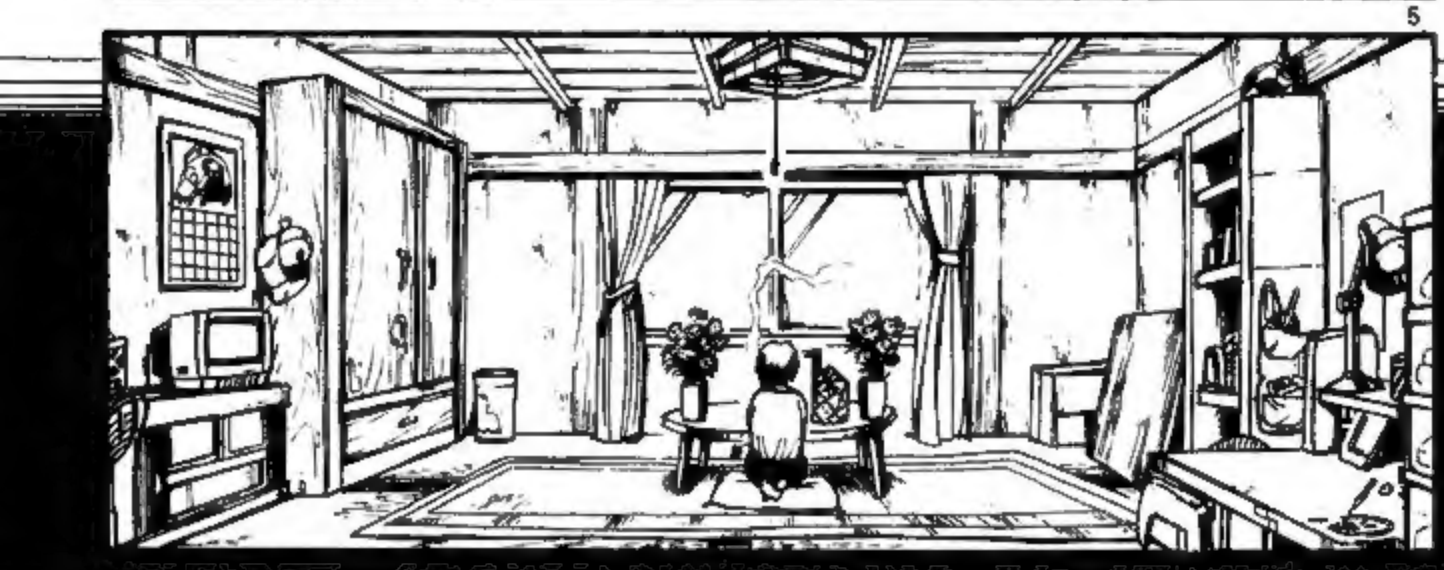

I LOVED MY MOM A LOT.
YOUNG MASTER ...

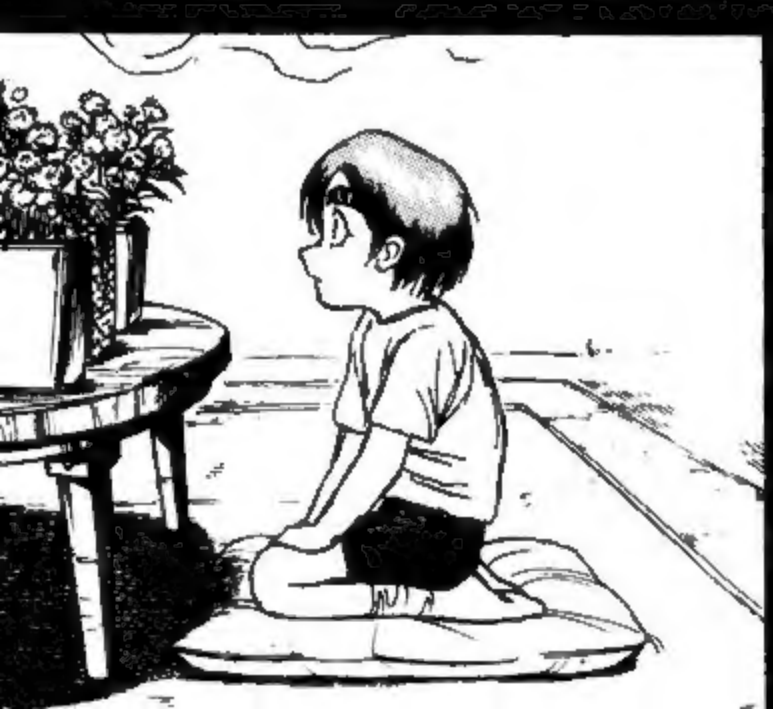
BUT YOU WOKE UP BECAUSE I DID, RIGHT?
THAT IS ONLY NATURAL. I AM THE ONE WHOM YOUR GRANDFATHER APPOINTED TO GUARD YOU, AFTER ALL.
Hee hee hee... No money, I can't pay you

SORRY TO KEEP YOU UP SO LATE LISTENING TO ME, SHIROGANE ...
NOT AT ALL, YOUNG MASTER. YOU SPEAK ABOUT YOURSELF SO RARELY.

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.
I THINK THAT I CAN STILL DISCUSS WITH YOU WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WE MET.
I DO NOT KNOW ...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT I, TOO, DO NOT UNDER-STAND, BUT...
GRANDPA, HUH...? I WONDER WHY HE DID THAT.

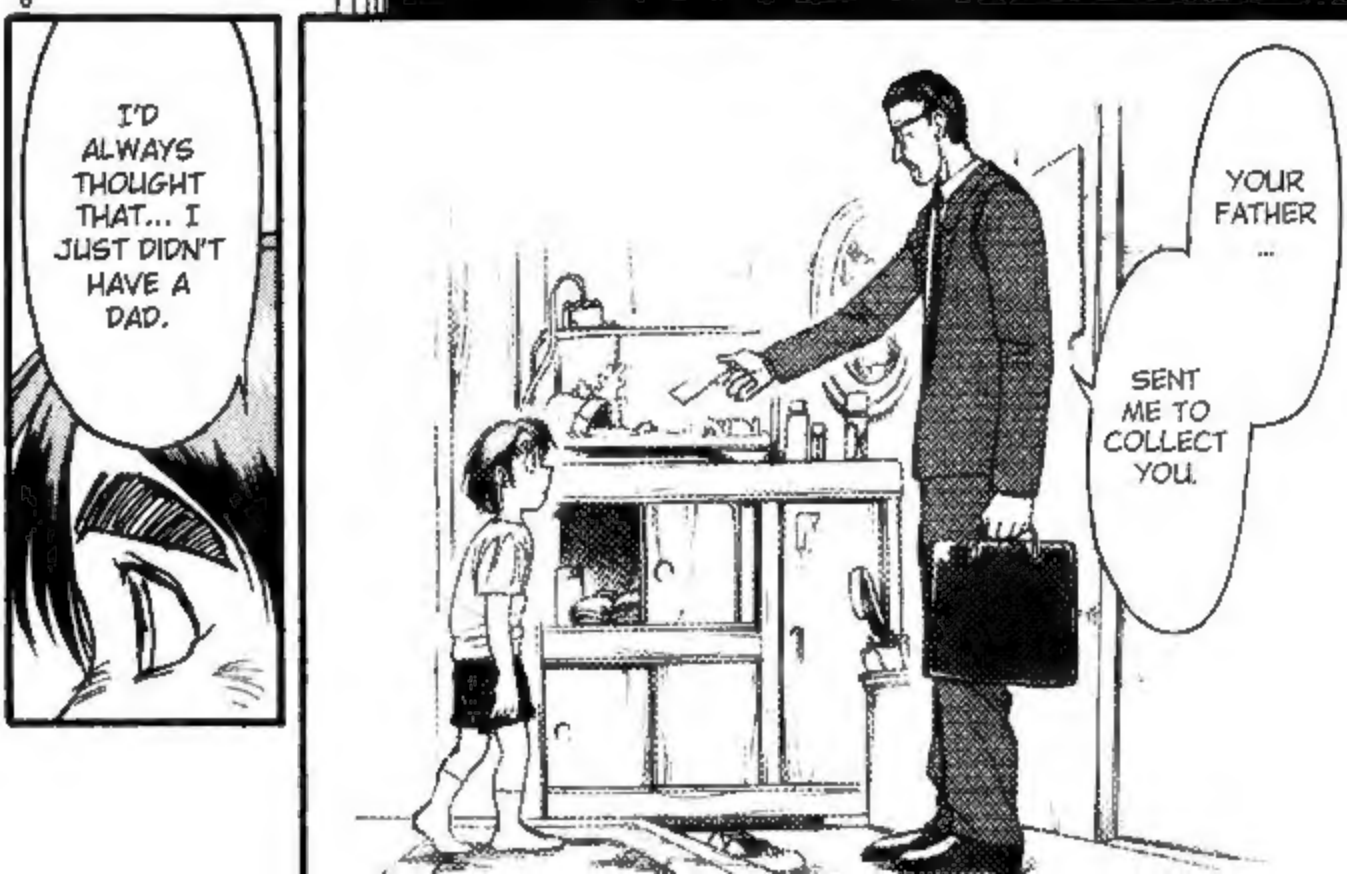
RIGHT ...
PLEASE GO ON.
IN THAT CASE ...





UH-UH. BEFORE I WAS 7, I'D NEVER MET ANY UNCLES, OR AUNTS, OR ANYTHING.
DID YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES ...?
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD.
IT HAPPENED SO FAST...
THE DOCTOR SAID IT MUST'VE BEEN A HEART CONDITION SHE HADN'T BEEN AWARE OF.

SFX: KNOCK KNOCK



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HERE WE ARE.
THIS WILL BE YOUR HOME FROM NOW ON.
SAIGA SADAYOSHI-SAMA, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF THE MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION PSYGA...
THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, IN OTHER WORDS... RESIDES ON THESE PREMISES.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE A SHOCK.
YEAH. ME, BEING THE SON OF SOME HUGE COMPANY PRESIDENT!
THAT LAWYER TOLD ME...
THAT MY MOM WORKED FOR A TEMPORARY STAFFING COMPANY THAT WAS PART OF THE PSYGA CONGLOMERATE.
AT SOME POINT, SHE CAUGHT MY DAD'S EYE AND THEY STARTED SEEING EACH OTHER.
BUT MY DAD ALREADY HAD AN ACTUAL WIFE, AND CHILDREN TOO. SO...
HEY, SHIROGANE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "LOVER" OR A "MISTRESS" IS?
W-WELL ...
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID MY MOM WAS ...
I... I AM NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT, EITHER, BUT...
I WAS INVITED TO BECOME A "LOVER" MANY TIMES IN OTHER CIRCUSES ...
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER MOVE ON NOW...

MY NEW DAD ...
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ANYWAY... DESPITE THAT, HE'D DECIDED TO TAKE ME IN AND RAISE ME, SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES.
コンコン
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK
SAIGA SADA-YOSHI.

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W-WELL ...
THAT'S KIND OF THE THING ...
WHAT SORT OF PERSON WEL-COMED YOU?
SADAYOSHI-SAMA... THE SON OF YOUR GRANDFATHER, WHO INSTRUCTED ME TO PROTECT YOU.

TURN AROUND. JUST THERE, WHERE YOU ARE.

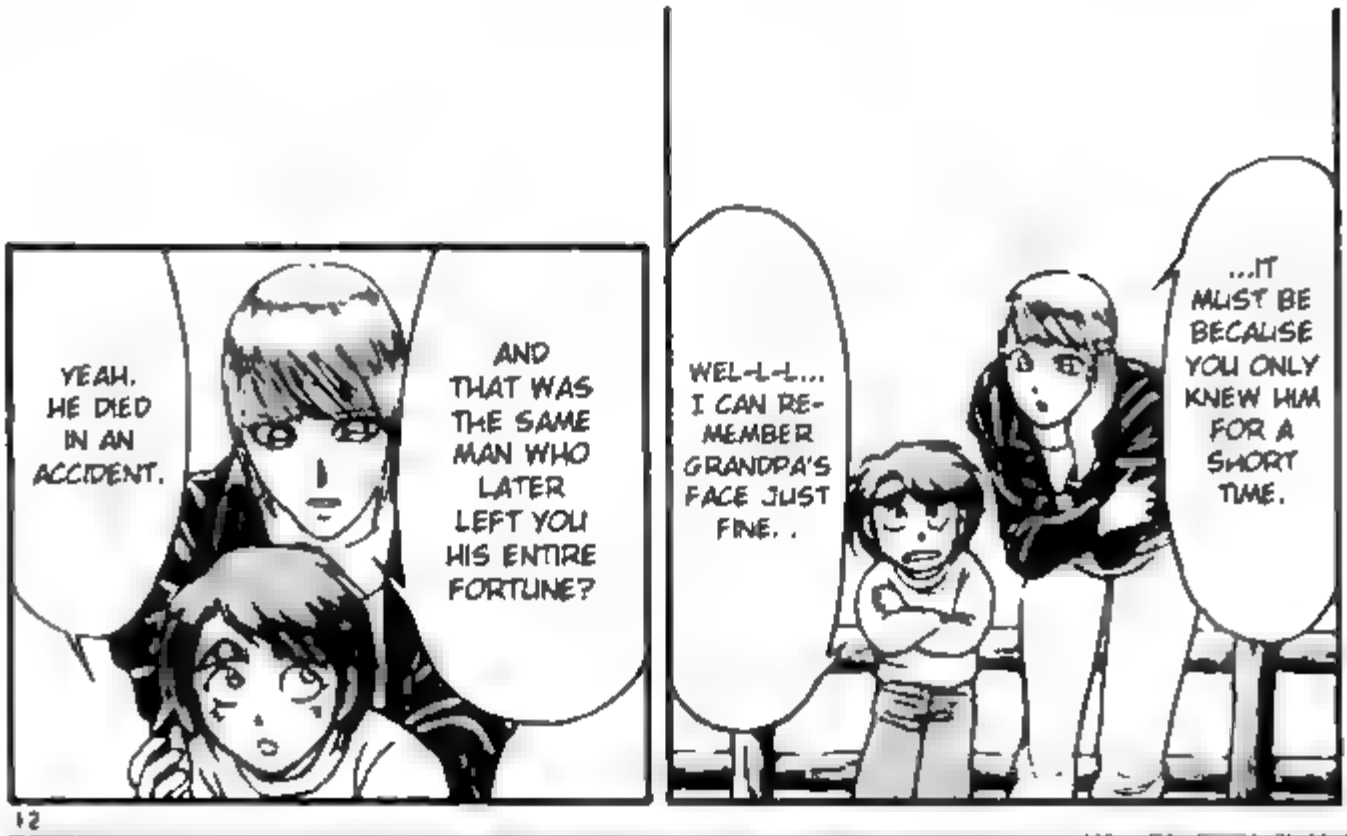
WHAT COULD HE HAVE BEEN THINKING?
HE ASKED A TON OF QUESTIONS.

AT WHAT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ARE YOU WEAKEST?
N-NO...

ARE YOU ILL OFTEN?
?

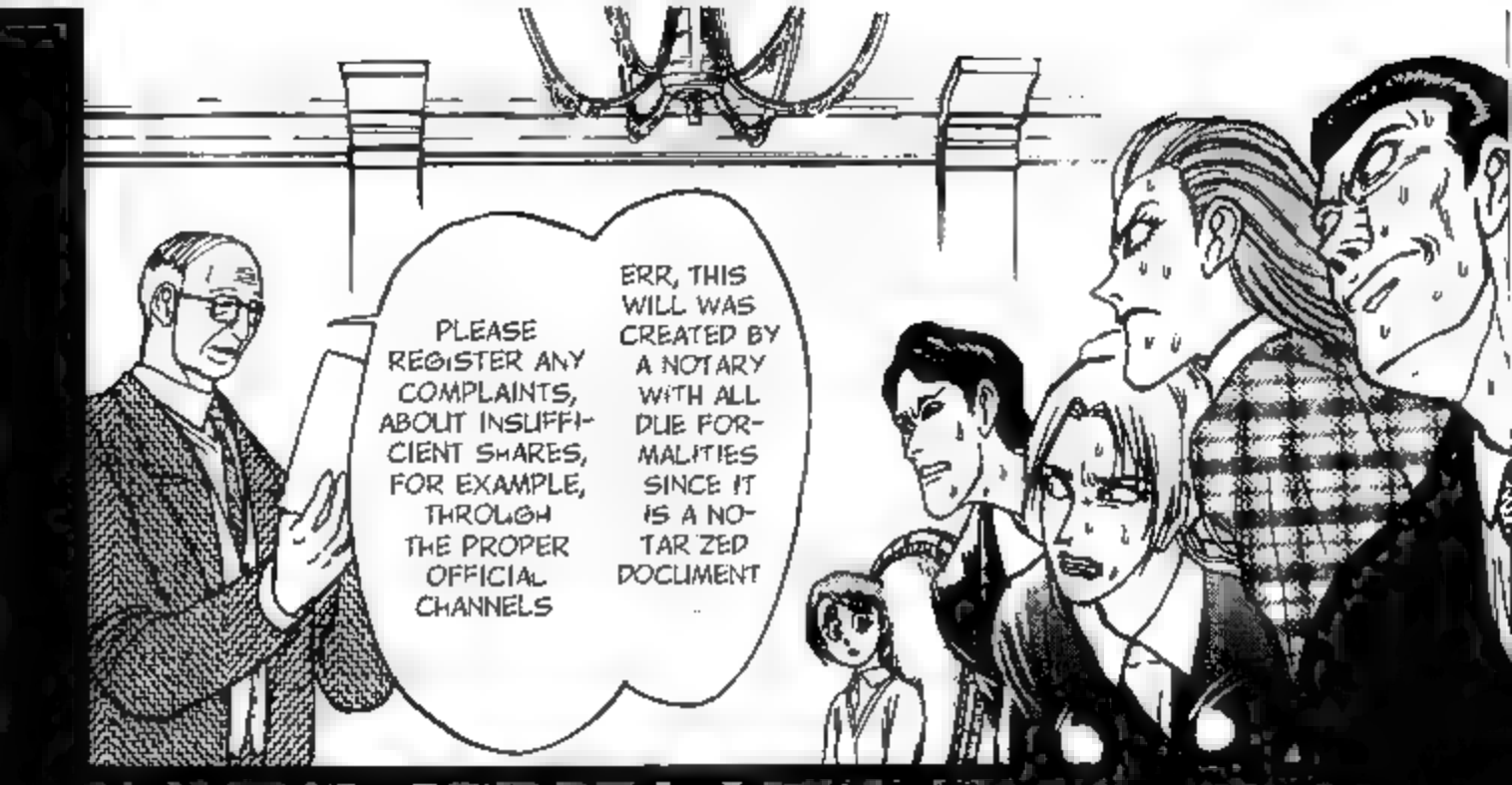
YES, SIR...
NOW THEN. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DIRECT THEM TOWARDS THE CARETAKER.
YOU MAY LEAVE.
NO! JUST A LITTLE BIT! LIKE, THE FEELING WAS KINDA... NEVER MIND, I WAS KIDDING!
I GUESS HE WAS KINDA LIKE HOW YOU USED TO BE.
Eheheh
HOW VERY ODD ...
THAT WAS ALL HE HAD TO SAY TO A 7-YEAR-OLD CHILD WHOM HE HAD INVITED TO COME LIVE WITH HIM?

BUT I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER HIS FACE.
HM?
IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER IT FOR A WHILE, BUT...
IT'S JUST MY DAD'S FACE ...
I NEVER FORGET ANY-THING I'VE SEEN EVEN ONCE ...

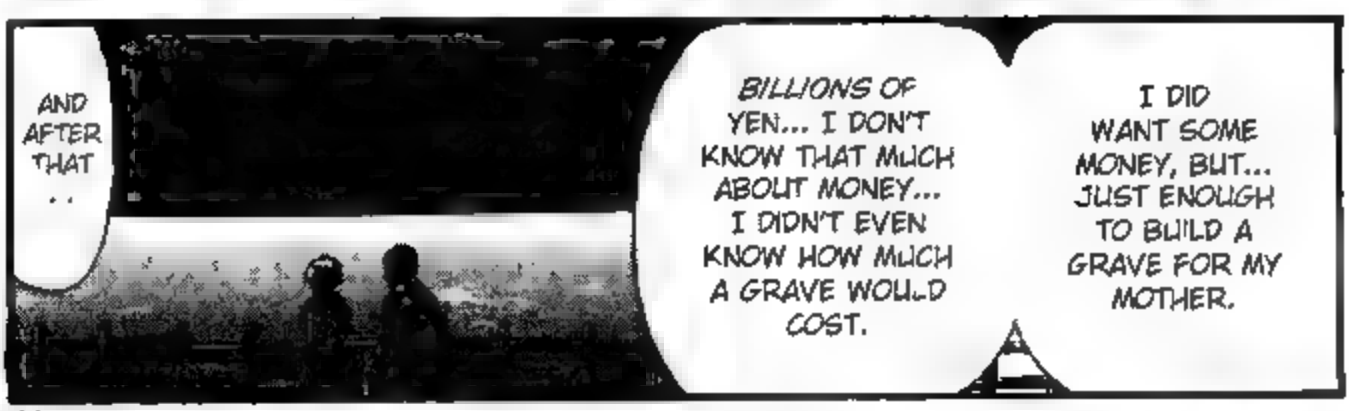

YEAH. HE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.
AND THAT WAS THE SAME MAN WHO LATER LEFT YOU HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE?
WEL-L-L... I CAN REMEMBER GRANDPA'S FACE JUST FINE. .
...IT MUST BE BECAUSE YOU ONLY KNEW HIM FOR A SHORT TIME.

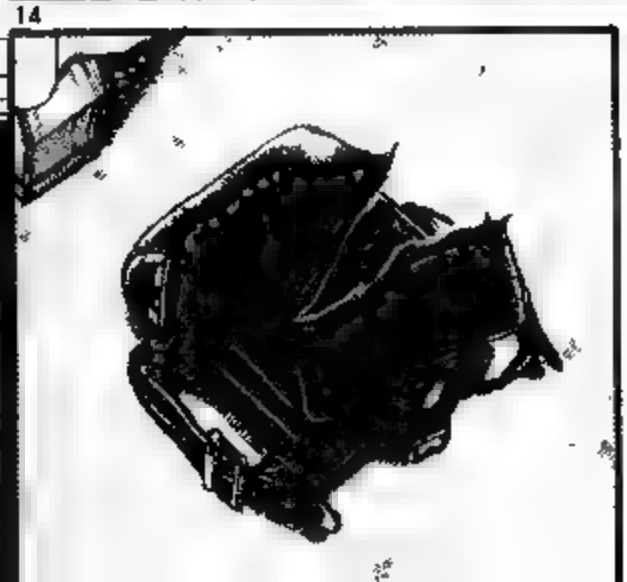
IT WAS A CAR ACCIDENT ON THE FREEWAY.
SOMETHING GOT DRAGGED INTO THE TIRES, AND THE CAR FLIPPED OVER. DAD WAS THE ONLY PASSENGER.
THEY IDENTIFIED THE BODY FROM HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS AND THE DENTAL RECORD .
I SAID SOMETHING GOT DRAG-GED INTO THE TIRES, RIGHT?
YES.
THE STRANGE THING ...?
BUT THE STRANGE THING WAS...

APPARENTLY THAT "SOMETHING" LOOKED A LOT LIKE A HUGE MARIONETTE.
I WONDER IF MAYBE IT WAS ONE LIKE YOUR ARLEQUIN ...
AFTER THAT ...
THE EXECUTOR BEING PRESENT AS WELL, IT IS TIME FOR THE WILL TO BE OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS CHILDREN.
.....
..THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ASSETS AND PATENT RIGHTS, AS WELL AS ALL REVENUE THEREOF..
ARE TO BE...
INHERITED BY THE THIRD SON, SAIGA MASARU.
Huh ?!

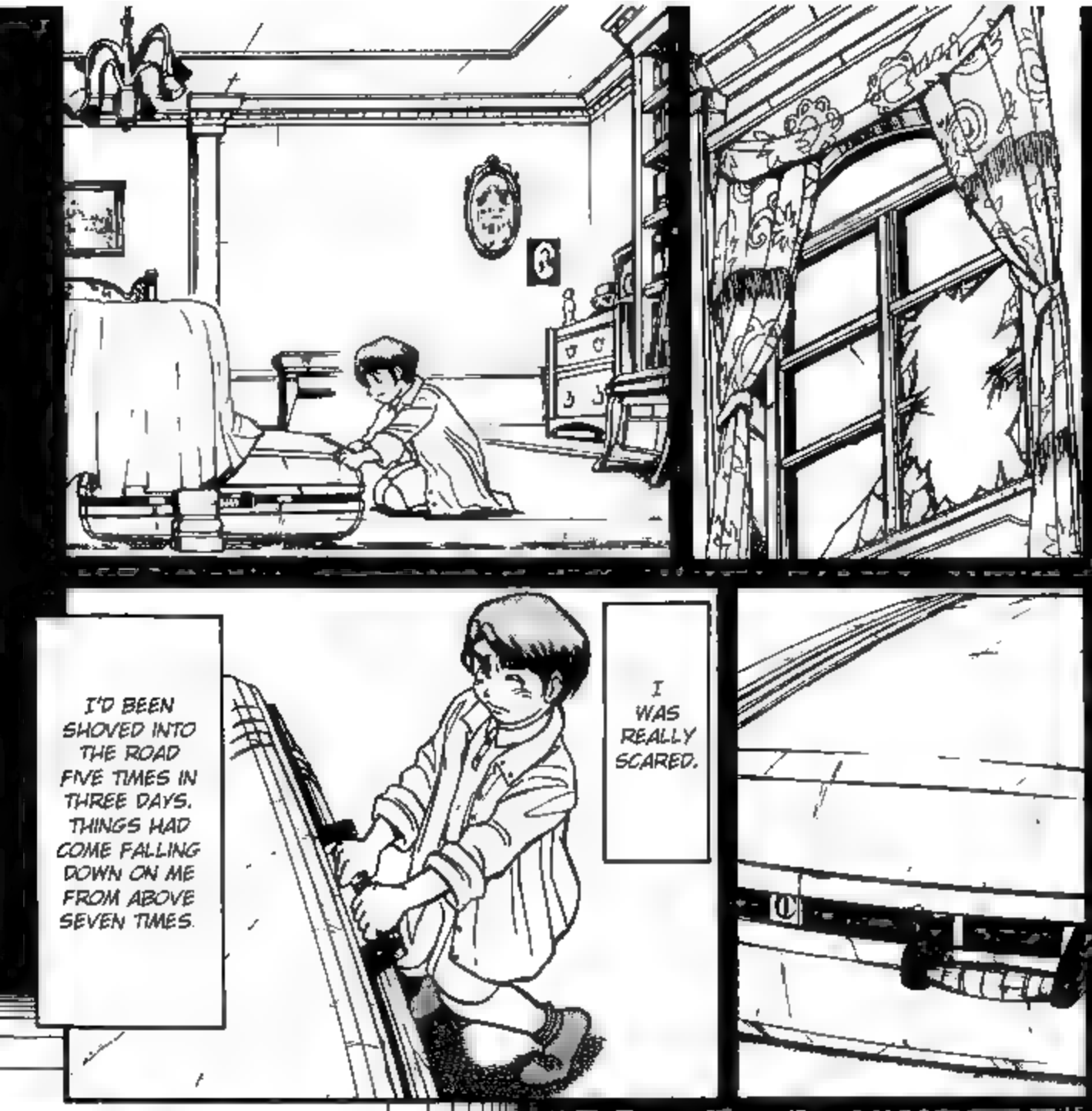

PLEASE REGISTER ANY COMPLAINTS, ABOUT INSUFFICIENT SHARES, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH THE PROPER OFFICIAL CHANNELS
ERR, THIS WILL WAS CREATED BY A NOTARY WITH ALL DUE FORMALITIES SINCE IT IS A NOTARZED DOCUMENT

18 BILLION YEN, HANDED OVER TO THAT LITTLE BRAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE *THOUGHT* OF ALLOWING A MISTRESS'S CHILD TO INHERIT EVERYTHING!
YOU CAN BET I WILL!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!


AND AFTER THAT . .
BILLIONS OF YEN... I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT MONEY... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH A GRAVE WOULD COST.
I DID WANT SOME MONEY, BUT... JUST ENOUGH TO BUILD A GRAVE FOR MY MOTHER.

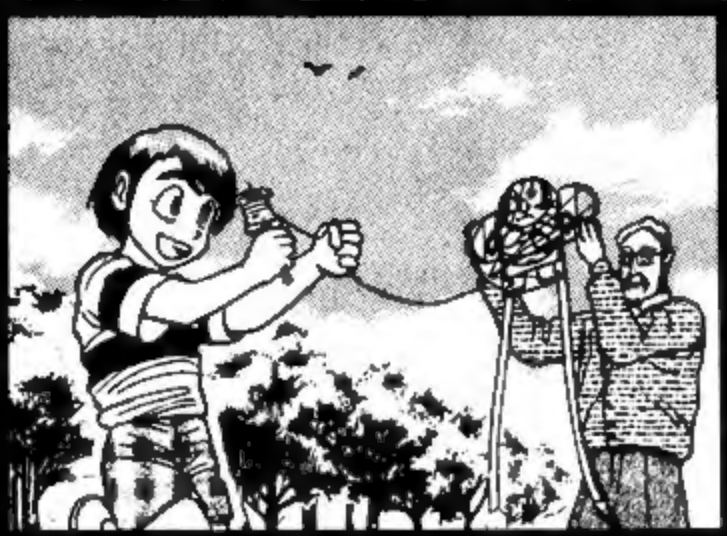


YOUR SIBLINGS WERE OUT FOR YOUR LIFE.


I'D BEEN SHOVED INTO THE ROAD FIVE TIMES IN THREE DAYS. THINGS HAD COME FALLING DOWN ON ME FROM ABOVE SEVEN TIMES.
I WAS REALLY SCARED.

I MADE UP MY MIND TO RUN AWAY.
JUST LIKE GRANDPA HAD TOLD ME TO...
SO YOUR GRANDFATHER KNEW THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER...?
UH-HUH.

WHO ARE YOU?
COME, NOW, LAD. BOYS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO CRY.



YOUR NEW GRAND-FATHER.
I'M SAIGA SHOUJI.

WOW, THERE ARE DOLLS EVERY-WHERE!
HA HA HA. FOR SOME REASON, ALL SAIGA MEN ARE INTER-ESTED IN KARAKURI DOLLS.
I'M SURE YOU WILL BE TOO, SOON ENOUGH.
HOWEVER... IF, BEFORE YOU HAVE GROWN UP INTO THAT KIND OF MAN...
YOU HAVE LOST YOUR FATHER ...
AND ANY-THING ODD HAP-PENS ...
TAKE THIS SUITCASE AND RUN AWAY AT ONCE.

SHIROGANE WILL PROTECT YOU.
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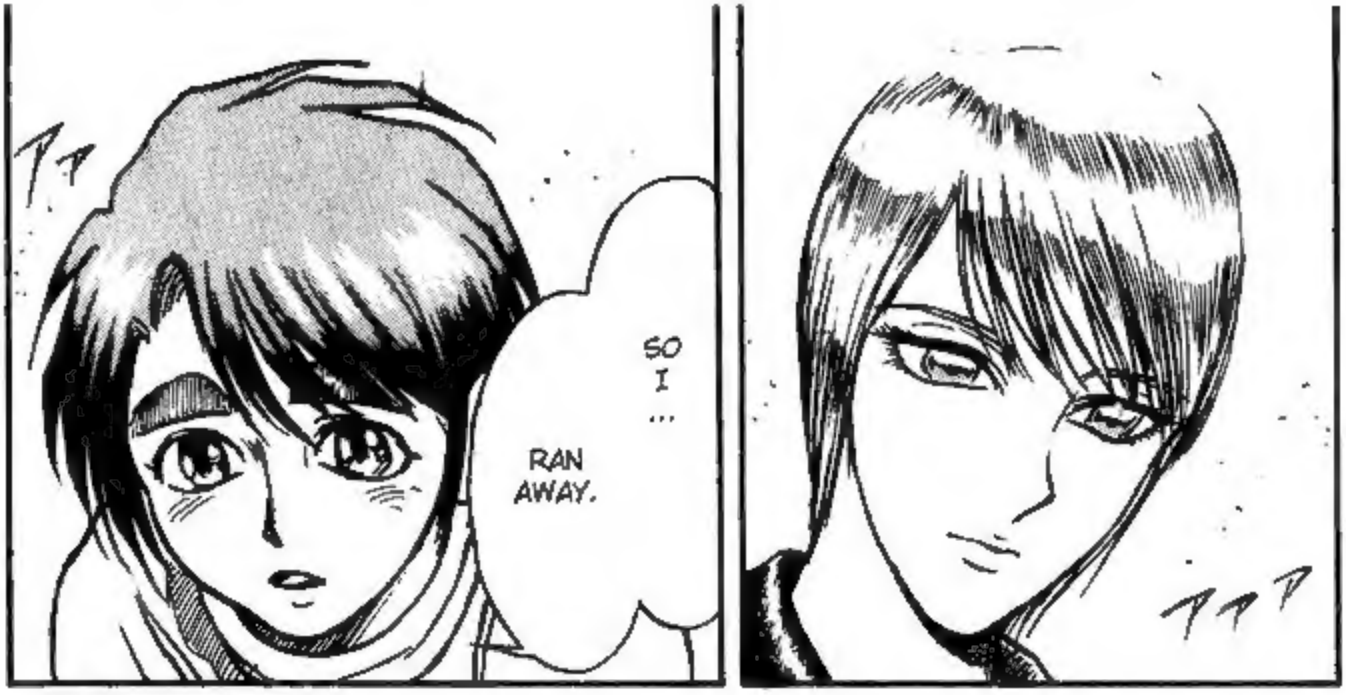
SO I ...
RAN AWAY.

AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME, BUT I WAS CARRYING ARLEQUIN IN THAT SUITCASE.
I WAS LOOKING FOR THE SHIROGANE WHO GRANDPA HAD SAID WOULD ALWAYS BE IN THE CLOSEST CIRCUS TO ME...
AND THEN... I...

SO, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE WE MET, SHIROGANE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
HHPPPPAP

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

NOTES:

"Saiga Group" is occasionally written as 才賀グループ, using the kanji for the name Saiga, but usually it appears in katakana as サイガグループ. I've gone with PSYGA, since that's how the word is written on the group's logo.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.